



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2009

## **MAYOR JERRY SANDERS FACT SHEET**

### **SANDERS CALLS FOR CHANGES IN WATER USE**

#### *Mayor Asking San Diegans to Step-Up Conservation in Wake of Governor's State of Emergency Declaration for California's Water Supplies*

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders is calling on all San Diegans to step up water conservation efforts in the wake of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's state of emergency declaration for California's water supplies.

"The Governor's message is right on target," said Mayor Sanders. "Everyone in California, especially here in San Diego where nearly 90% of our water comes from imported sources, must fundamentally change the way we think about and use water," said the Mayor.

Despite some successes, including the double digit reductions in water use recorded by the City's own Park and Recreation Department, the City as a whole has fallen short of conservation goals. As a result, the City may soon face painful mandatory restrictions on water use.

#### **City Preparing Water Allocation Methodology:**

"At my direction, the City's Water Department has been developing a water allocation plan that we intend to implement on July 1," said the Mayor. "I understand how unsettling talk of water allocations may seem," he said. "But, given the Governor's request for an immediate 20% reduction in water use and his mention of potential mandatory cutbacks, I think everyone can now see what a serious issue this is for San Diego and the state as a whole."

### **City Offering Water Conservation Services:**

The City of San Diego's Water Department offers a variety of conservation services to its customers. The Department has also partnered with other agencies to prepare information resources that can assist homeowners in achieving water savings both indoors and out.

### **Residential Water Surveys:**

The City offers Residential water use surveys to single family and small multi-family customers through the Residential Water Survey Program. By participating in this Program, customers learn to read their meter, check for leaks and understand their current water usage. The Surveyor will check for toilet leaks, measure shower and faucet flows, and review the irrigation system. Water Department staff will also recommend ways to improve the efficiency of irrigation systems. Customers average a 15% savings by participating in this program. Surveys can be scheduled by calling (619) 570-1999.

### **Incentives for Water Saving Devices:**

In addition to the residential Survey Program, commercial landscape customers and HOA's can work with the Water Department to receive financial incentives offered for upgrading irrigation devices. The City provides incentives for "smart" irrigation controllers, and rotating nozzles through [www.20gallonchallenge.com](http://www.20gallonchallenge.com), the website hosted by the San Diego County Water Authority.

### **California Friendly Landscape Contest:**

Residents are invited to submit their homes for the California Friendly Landscape Contest. We are seeking homes that demonstrate beautiful, functional low water use landscapes. The deadline is April 6, 2009. The application is available at libraries and at <http://landscapecontest.com/>.

### **Water Conservation Garden:**

The Water Conservation Garden located at Cuyamaca College provides an excellent source of information, demonstration of low water use plants and educational activities. The City of San Diego contributes to the development and maintenance of this beautiful garden for all of San Diego residents. Additional information is at [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org). Upcoming highlights include:

- Water Smart Plant Fair – March 14, 2009
- Spring Garden Festival – April 25, 2009

### **WATER EMERGENCY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Information about the water emergency facing San Diego can be found at the City's new website, [www.sandiego.gov/wateremergency](http://www.sandiego.gov/wateremergency).